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U.S. Application No.: 10/535,157
Amendment A
Reply to Office Action Dated January 22, 2007

Attorney Docket No: 3926.150

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces any earlier listing:

1. (currently amended) A method for sensing ~~the~~ surroundings in front of a road vehicle by means of a surroundings sensing system, ~~system~~ in which ~~the~~ surroundings data is sensed obtained by means of a surroundings sensor, and objects ~~within the surroundings data sensed by the surroundings sensor~~ are detected by processing the sensor surroundings data, the method comprising:
 - ~~wherein the~~ determining a perception region in which the objects are detected ~~corresponds~~ corresponding to a ~~component-region~~ partial region of the a region sensed by the surroundings sensor,
 - ~~wherein~~ dividing the perception region ~~is divided~~ into a plurality of component-regions, and ~~evaluation takes place in one component-region and no evaluation takes place in another component-region,~~
 - ~~wherein~~ subjecting the surroundings data is subjected to a multi-stage evaluation based on the division of the perception region,
 - ~~wherein~~ defining a lane before the perception region is divided into a plurality of component-regions ~~in the perception region a lane is firstly defined in order to~~ and subsequently ~~restrict~~ restricting the perception region to the lane, and
 - ~~wherein~~ subjecting each of these component-regions ~~is subjected~~ to a specific evaluation, and
 - issuing a warning to a driver of the road vehicle based on a result of the evaluation.
2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lane is defined in that either a lane detection is carried out by image processing methods or a lane is defined

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by means of the data of a navigation system.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the perception region is restricted in such a way that, for the purpose of delimiting the lane, a further predefined tolerance region is also added.
4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, for the purpose of carrying out evaluation in the perception region, object perception is carried out by means of image processing methods.
5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, for the purpose of carrying out evaluation in the perception region, object classification is carried out by means of classification methods in order to rule out false alarms.
6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein, for the purpose of evaluation in the perception region, the distance from detected objects is determined in order to be able to provide information about obstacles in good time.
7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, for the purpose of carrying out evaluation in the perception region by means of tracking methods, the movement of objects is sensed in order to perceive whether their direction of movement corresponds to the vehicle's own movement.
8. (canceled)
9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surroundings sensing system, is an infrared night vision system.

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